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Monsanto

MONSANTO CHEMICAL INTERMEDIATES CO.
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
Phone: (314) 684-1000

May 17, 1979

Mr. Kenneth O. Buercklin
Resident in Charge
Edwardsville Resident Post
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
P.O. Box 536
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

Dear Mr. Buercklin:

On April 3 you personally delivered a letter addressed to Mr. Charles P. Farley requesting certain information concerning waste materials at Monsanto's Sauget, Illinois facility. During these discussions, you requested Monsanto to determine if it had any information concerning the presence of chlorinated dioxins (specifically 2,3,7,8-TCDD, hereinafter referred to as dioxin) in Monsanto's landfill or its effluent to the Sauget waste treatment facility. You indicated that your concern was the possible contamination of the food chain with dioxin.

This letter will confirm my conversation with you on April 18, and will reflect in total the efforts Monsanto has undertaken to determine if any information requested is available.

Monsanto personnel thoroughly searched records to determine if we have any knowledge concerning the presence of dioxin within either the Monsanto landfill or the plant's wastewater discharges to the Sauget Village waste treatment plant. Having concluded this effort, we find that there are no data available. As I explained to you during our conversation on April 18, Monsanto has not had reason in the past to look specifically for dioxin at these locations since we have not intentionally disposed of these materials. It should be recognized, of course, that recent reports have indicated that dioxin may be ubiquitous in the environment. Therefore, it is possible that any site or waterway throughout the country may contain trace amounts of dioxin. In addition to investigating possible Monsanto sources of information, we also surveyed the Environmental Protection Agency data base information systems to determine if non-Monsanto information existed. No data were available from this source.

Mr. Kenneth O. Buercklin

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Furthermore, we understand that the analytical procedures necessary to develop this information heretofore have not been generally available. Analysis specific for the 2,3,7,8-TCDD isomer require the use of small amounts of this material to standardize the analytical instruments. The potential for exposure during handling by laboratory analysts has precluded such determinations both at Monsanto facilities and, as we understand it, also at EPA analytical contractor facilities.

Please be assured that Monsanto will continue to act responsibly in avoiding any contamination of food chain chemicals produced and in complying with applicable environmental laws.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Pierle
Manager, Environmental Affairs

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